

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**TOM TORLAKSON**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
1430 N Street, Suite 5602  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901  
916-319-0800

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**CHARLES B. REED**, Chancellor  
401 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4210  
562-951-4000

**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**JACK SCOTT**, Chancellor  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549  
916-322-4005

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Dear County and District Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, High School Principals, College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors, and Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers:

### **2012 EARLY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

In the next few months, California public school students will participate in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Embedded in the STAR Program for grade eleven students is the Early Assessment Program (EAP). The EAP essay will be administered in March 2012. Our offices have written an electronic letter addressed to grade eleven students encouraging them to complete the EAP and to authorize the release of their EAP results to California State University (CSU) and/or California Community Colleges (CCCs). We are asking for your support to ensure that this letter is distributed to each grade eleven student and that you encourage these students to participate in the EAP during the spring administration of the California Standards Tests (CSTs).

Developed in collaboration with the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the CSU and accepted by participating CCCs, the EAP is a voluntary program designed to provide students, their families, and high schools with early signals about students' readiness for college-level English and mathematics courses. Grade eleven students who are eligible to take the English or the Algebra II or Summative High School Mathematics CST may participate in the EAP. We are pleased to report that in spring 2011, approximately 86 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in English and 80 percent of eligible grade eleven students participated in the EAP in mathematics.

The EAP identifies a student's need for additional preparation in these areas while still enrolled in high school. Students will have an opportunity to enroll in English and/or mathematics classes that will include additional instruction during their senior year to prepare for placement exams necessary at CSUs and CCCs. Students deemed Math-Conditional will need to take a math class with a pre-requisite of Algebra II and earn a "C" or higher in the senior year in order to take advantage of the math exemption. Students can also access online college prep tools from the CSU Success Web site at <http://www.csusuccess.org>. Students who demonstrate proficiency for college-level

coursework, based on their EAP results, are exempt from taking CSU and participating CCC placement tests in English and mathematics and move directly into college-level classes upon enrollment.

Students who participate in the EAP must complete the specified CSTs and an additional 15 questions on the English and mathematics portions of the CSTs. Students are also required to complete an essay for the English portion of the EAP. The EAP results are incorporated into the STAR Student Report. Students who seek or intend to enroll in a CSU or CCC and wish to have their scores released should fill in the “bubble” in the EAP Readiness for College English and Mathematics – EAP Augmentation sections on their STAR answer sheets. The EAP results can only be released to the CSU or CCC through this process. Please encourage your grade eleven students to release their EAP results. Students who choose not to release their EAP results but later decide that they would like the CSU and/or community colleges to receive their English and mathematics EAP results will be asked to provide paper copies of the results to CSU or participating CCCs themselves.

### **County and District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators**

We ask for your support in ensuring that your High School Principals and Assistant Principals, College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors, and grade eleven English and mathematics teachers receive a copy of this letter.

### **High School Principals**

A copy of the electronic letter to grade eleven students may be found on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml> for forwarding to your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers to distribute to their students. Please indicate to your school staff the importance of distributing the letter to grade eleven students at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

### **College and High School Counselors and Career Center Directors**

We ask for your support in ensuring that your grade eleven English and mathematics teachers receive a copy of this letter. Please encourage your English and mathematics teachers to distribute the letter to their grade eleven students at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

## **Grade Eleven English and Mathematics Teachers**

A copy of the letter to grade eleven students may be found on the CSU EAP Letters Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/letters.shtml>. Please distribute them to grade eleven students enrolled in your English and mathematics class at least two weeks before the CSTs are administered on your high school campus.

## **Additional Information**

You can find information about the EAP on the CSU EAP Web page at <http://www.calstate.edu/eap/> and the CCC Chancellor's Office EAP Web page at <http://www.cccco.edu/eap>. Additionally, students can find information about the EAP, their EAP results, and how to get ready for college on the EAP Web site at <http://www.collegeeap.org/> (Outside Source).

If you have questions regarding the EAP, please contact Carolina Cardenas, Associate Director, Student Academic Support Office, CSU, by phone at 562-951-4724 or by e-mail at [eapmail@calstate.edu](mailto:eapmail@calstate.edu), or Kimberly Cortijo, State EAP Coordinator, CCC Chancellor's Office, by e-mail at [kcortijo@cccco.edu](mailto:kcortijo@cccco.edu). You may also contact John Boivin, Education Research and Evaluation Administrator, STAR Program & Assessment Transition Office, California Department of Education, by phone at 916-445-8765 or by e-mail at [STAR@cde.ca.gov](mailto:STAR@cde.ca.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of the Early Assessment Program that helps prepare California high school graduates for higher education.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
California Department of Education

Charles B. Reed  
Chancellor  
The California State University

Jack Scott  
Chancellor  
California Community Colleges

TT/CBR/JS:pa  
Enclosure

cc: District Standardized Testing and Reporting Coordinators